

June 21, 2007

AFRICAN LEADERS DISASSOCIATION WITH INTENDED LEGAL ACTION BY MAMADOU SOUMARE

On that terrible and unforgettable day of March 7, 2007, the MAGASSA and SOUMARE families suffered a terrible loss (horrific Bronx house fire) which we pray and hope that no other family will encounter such a disastrous experience. We are grateful and thankful to the entire City of New York for the immediate and spontaneous response and support. Everyone was touched by this tragic loss and responded accordingly. African leaders led by Mr. Sidique Abou-Bakarr Wai, National President and Spokesperson of the UNITED AFRICAN CONGRESS Inc., Sheikh Moussa Drammeh, the UAC, Inc. Bronx Vice President, Alhadji Imam Souleimane Konate, the UAC, Inc. Deputy Spiritual leader (Muslim), Imam Abdul Karim from Masjid Al-Iman, among other political, religious and community leaders were at the forefront trying to provide any kind of assistance needed by these families. The news media (especially NEW YORK 1) did a complete coverage of this unfortunate incident. In fact, two crew members of this television station accompanied the bereaved families to the Republic of Mali, West Africa and covered the entire funeral and related ceremonies. We sympathize with these two families, and continue to pray for them.

However, the latest development and move by the Soumare family to file a notice of claim with an intent to sue the City of New York and other city agencies leave us with troubled minds. We only hope that the Soumare family is receiving the appropriate legal advice. UAC laments this decision and cannot support this intended legal action. At a press conference held on Friday, June 15, 2007, at the Islamic Cultural Center, Bronx, New York, these same African leaders joined by others including Madam Madoussou Traore, President of the United Malian Womens Association, Mr. Mohammed Baro, President of the Guinean Mandingo Association, Mr. Mamadou Kane, President of the African Taxi Drivers and others disagreed with this action and disassociated themselves from this intended legal action by the Soumare family. The UNITED AFRICAN CONGRESS, Inc. thanks the City and State of New York and all legislators who helped to bring relief to the community in general and the Magassa and Soumare families in particular.